

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial**  
**Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **Coal Miners Honored in Music CD - Receive National Recognition**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 13, 2004 . . . . . American coal miners were honored in a musical CD that has received a national honorable mention award from the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. The 25-track CD was produced by The Mining Award of America for Jim Walter Resources as a tribute to all coal miners. Ten coal miners from Alabama's Jim Walter Resources No. 4 Mine in Brookwood, Alabama participated in the CD.

"In Pennsylvania, when miners were trapped, prayers were just as strong in Wyoming as in Alabama and West Virginia," says Bill Kinzalow, a 25-year coal miner at Brookwood. "When 13 coal miners died in Brookwood, Alabama . . . we knew in our hearts there were many tears shed across this nation." Kinzalow spoke these words of tribute on the CD, referring to the September 21, 2001 disaster at the Brookwood mine.

The CD has original songs and spoken words by Mel Shaw, a Canadian recording artist with a studio in Nashville, and the Brookwood coal miners sing backup to The Jordanares in "Amazing Grace." Alabamian Jimmie Hyche performs a song he wrote, "Brookwood to Birmingham," about his grandfather's life as a coal miner. These miners also tell their own stories about their careers in some of the deepest coal mines in North America. Other legendary songs include "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "Nine Pound Hammer."

The honorable mention award for Public Outreach will be presented in Virginia Beach on April 27. Accepting the award on behalf of Jim Walter Resources will be Michael Skates, Acting Director of Mining and Reclamation Division, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. The nomination was originally sent in by Walter Cartwright of the Department of Industrial Relations.

The \$15.00 CD may be purchased at: [www.jwrworkings.com](http://www.jwrworkings.com) and all profits go to Brookwood High School.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: [www.dir.state.al.us](http://www.dir.state.al.us).